

REMARKS

Claims 25, 27-28, and 30-38 were pending in the application. Claims 25, 30 and 31 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Claim 39 has been added. Support for new claim 39 may be found, *inter alia*, at ¶¶ 33, 34 and Figs. 8-11. Therefore, claims 25, 27-28, and 30-39 are now pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that claims 35-38 are allowed.

35 U.S.C. 112 Rejection

Claims 25, 27, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Independent claims 25 and 30 have been amended where appropriate. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections

Claims 25, 27, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,301,977 ("Stojanovski"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of claim 25 should be withdrawn at least because Stojanovski does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claim. For example, Stojanovski does not disclose, teach or suggest the first "stitching being located between the folded portion and a tapered portion of the webbing, and wherein the webbing includes a second stitching located outside of the tapered portion," as recited in amended claim 25. Stojanovski discloses a seatbelt webbing 12 looped through an opening 40 with stitching 56. The stitching 56 on both sides of the webbing 12 extends into the tapered section, away from the opening. No stitching is located between the "folded portion" that passes through an opening and a "tapered portion of the webbing." Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 25 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Independent claim 30 contains elements similar to claim 25 and therefore, is allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above. For example, Stojanovski does not disclose, teach or suggest “the first stitching being located between the fold in the webbing and a tapered portion of the webbing, and wherein the webbing includes a second stitching located outside of the tapered portion,” as recited in amended claim 30. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,891,272 (“Takada ‘272”). The Office Action refers to U.S. Patent No. 4,371,193 (“Takada ‘193”). *See* Office Action on p. 3. However, the substance of the rejection discusses Takada ‘272 and, therefore, Applicants address the rejection with regard to Takada ‘272. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

The rejection of claim 31 should be withdrawn at least because Takada does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of the claim. For example, Takada does not disclose, teach or suggest “wherein no portion of the seat belt adjacent to the looped portion is folded,” as recited in amended claim 31. The Office Action states that a “portion of the seat belt adjacent to the looped portion is not folded,” and refers to reference numeral 34 in Figure 5. The Office Action at p. 4. However, Takada discloses a folded portion (near reference numerals 38) adjacent the looped portion and, therefore, some portion of the seat belt “adjacent to the looped portion is folded.” Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-34 depend from claim 31 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations set forth in these dependent claims.

Conclusion

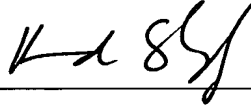
Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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